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AND NOW..
D'SPAYRE!

PLUS...THE MOST SHOCKING GUEST-STAR OF ALL!!





WITH A GRIN LIKE THAT, YOU'D
EXPECT HIM TO START WHISTLING
ANY MINUTE...

--A SCORING TUNE LIKE HE
HEARS EVERY DAY FROM THE
CIRCUS'S CALLIOPE, LOUD
AND SWEET.

BUT AT THE TENDER
AGE OF SIX
KURT WAGNER
HAS YET TO LEARN
HOW TO WHISTLE, JUST
AS HE HAS YET TO
LEARN SO MANY
THINGS...

...ABOUT
UNREASONING
HATE.

LET THE
LESSONS
BEGIN.

Stan Lee Presents

LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR

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(MY DAD...
HE SAYS YOU'RE A
DEVIL... A... ~~DEVIL~~...
HE SAYS YOU WEAR
YOUR GYPSY EVIL
ON YOUR FACE...)

(WE BEAT
ME FOR EVER
COMING NEAR
YOU, KURT, IF
HE CATCHES ME
TALKING TO YOU
AGAIN--)

(--HE'LL
KILL ME
BECAUSE HE'LL
LET YOU TAKE
MY SOUL...)

(I'M NOT
THE
DEVIL?
BUT--?)



< I'M SORRY, KURT... BUT
WHAT'AM I SUPPOSED
TO DO ?? >

< YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO'S IN THE
CIRCUS... YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO'S A GYPSY...
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S
BLUE !! >

< BLAST
IT, THIS IS
ALL YOUR
FAULT! YOU
FREAK !! >

< CHRISTIAN,
WAIT! COME
BACK... >



<... PLEASE ? >



< no... >



< I'm sorry, god... i
promise from now on
i'll try not to be like
the devil... >

<... if i can
just have my friend
back... >



...BUT AN OLDER, WISER NIGHTDROWLER
TODAY HOLDS ANOTHER YOUNG GYPSY
BOY IN HIS ARMS THAT MUCH CLOSER.

MADE
IT!!

THOUGH
JUST BARELY.
THE SCOTTISH
STRAIGHT UP IS
ROUGH ON ME
EVEN WHEN I
HAVEN'T BEEN
CLOBBERED WITH
A BRICK--

--LET ALONE
WHEN I'VE GOT
A PASSENGER!

*SEE LAST
ISSUE...SUZE

THE STRAIN OF
THE TELEPORT WAS
KNOCKED THE BOY COLD,
BUT HIS INJURIES
SEEM MINOR. HE
SHOULD BE FINE--

NO THANKS
TO THE THUGS
WHO WERE CHASING
HIM! AND JUST
BECAUSE HE'S
A GYPSY?

IF I HADN'T GOTTEN HIM
OUT OF THERE WHEN
I DID...!

WELL, PERHAPS OUR
SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE
FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE
RIOT HAS SHOCKED
SOME SENSE INTO THE--

--NOB.



I'D READ THAT
TENSIONS WERE RUNNING
HIGH HERE IN GERMANY,
BUT THIS--!

THEY'RE TEARING EACH
OTHER TO PIECES! HUNDREDS
OF THEM, DRIVEN BY HATED TIMES
SEARCHING FOR THE REASONS FOR
THEIR MISERY...

"A FAMILY I JUST
LEARNED I HAD
TWO DAYS AGO..."

...AND FINDING EASY
ANSWERS IN THE OLD
PREJUDICES AND
ETHNIC RIVALRIES.

ACH, OFF ALL PEOPLE,
I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED
IT'S THE SAME MADNESS THAT
ORE APART MY OWN FAMILY...

"ONLY TO SEE
MY BIRTH
MOTHER, ANASTASIE,
SACRIFICE HERSELF
TO SAVE ME!"

* IN X-MEN
UNLIMITED #4... SUITE

"THOSE WOUNDS
WERE HARDLY
HEALED WHEN
AMANDA WHISKED
ME AWAY FROM
MISSISSIPPI..."

"AND BROUGHT
ME HERE, TO
TRY AND STOP
THE RIOTS BETWEEN
LEO-VAZ
SKINHEADS
AND ANTI-HATE
DEMONSTRATORS..."

...AND TO RESCUE
HER MOTHER-- MY
FOSTER MOTHER--
FROM THE VICIOUS
DEMON WHO'S
BEHIND THIS
BLOODBATH--

THINKING
OF ME, O
MARSHALL'S
"LITTLE
ANGEL"?



--BUT LEAVING HER WEAK
ENOUGH FOR ME TO ENSLAVE
AT THE NEXT!

MONSTER!
RELEASE HER, OR I'LL
TEAR YOU LIMBS
FROM--

HE'S
INTANGIBLE--
FADING FROM VIEW,
AND TAKING MARGALI
WITH HIM!



YOU'LL DO
NOTHING,
MUTANT!

FAREWELL,
KURT WAGNER! BY
DAWN, THANKS TO THE
ENERGIES OF THOSE
RAGING MOBS, I'LL BE
ABLE TO SEIZE THE POWER
OF YOUR MOTHER'S POWER
FOR MYSELF.

SHE WILL BE A
DRIED-UP ALIEN, WHILE
I WILL HAVE THE STRENGTH
TO DOMINATE THIS WORLD
AND ITS INHABITANTS...

...SO I CAN
SHOW YOU ALL THE
SHARK EMPYRENS
THAT DWELLS AT
THE CORE OF YOUR
MORTAL
EXISTENCE.

WE'LL SPEAK
AGAIN THEN. I
PROMISE.



DANKE
D'SPARE. THE
INFORMATION
YOU PROVIDED
SHOULD PROVE
QUITE HELPFUL...

...ONCE I
FIGURE OUT HOW
TO TRACK YOU
DOWN--



"MONSTER--
I'LL TEAR YOU
LIMBS FROM LIMBS--"
NOW THAT WAS
EFFECTIVE.

ACTUALLY, I WAS TRYING TO LULL HIM INTO A FALSE SENSE OF CONFIDENCE USING HACKNEYED RHETORIC.

DO YOU THINK IT WORKED?

OH, HE WAS LULLED...

...IT'S JUST THE "FALSE" PART I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT.

SUCH LITTLE FAITH FROM THE NISHTY ANANIAS SEFTON, SORCEROUS HEIR TO MARSHALL SZARDOS? COME NOW, LIEBCHEN...

...ZAPPING US ACROSS THE GLOBE WORE YOU OUT, BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN YOUR WIND BACK, YOUR SKILLS COMBINED WITH MY DEVILISH GOOD LOOKS SHOULD BE MORE THAN A MATCH FOR--

SORRY, KURT, BUT NO CAN DO. IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU BEFORE-- IF I GET TOO CLOSE TO D'SPAYRE, WE'LL SENSE MY MYSTICAL AURA INSTANTLY-- AND ~~CLAMBER~~ US BEFORE I COULD TWITCH MY NOSE AND MAKE THINGS RIGHT.

YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN WITH THIS ONE.

WHAT ABOUT THE RIOTS-- THE SOUND OF D'SPAYRE'S POWER? LET'S WE FORGET, THEY'RE STILL IN FULL SWING!

THAT YOU SHOULD LEAVE TO ME MEANTIME, I'M SENDING YOU SOMEPLACE WHERE YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL.

I'LL MEET UP WITH YOU AFTER YOU'VE MADE YOUR "ENTRANCE."

KEEP DREAMING...
...AND KEEP SAFE, KURT.

MEANWHILE...

IN THESE MAINE WOODS, HUNTING ISN'T A SPORT—IT'S A WAY OF LIFE...

...AND WOE BETIDE ANYONE FOOL ENOUGH TO WANDER THEM WITHOUT WEARING THE PROPER DAY-GLO GEAR.

BUT WHILE THE HUNT IS VERY MUCH ON THIS ONE'S MIND, IT'S NOT HUMAN HUNTERS WHO CONCERN HIM.

INDEED, HE HIMSELF ISN'T REMOTELY HUMAN.

HE IS CALLED ZERO...

...THOUGH RIGHT NOW, THAT NAME MIGHT BETTER REFLECT HIS PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED EXISTENCE.

SYSTEMS-WIDE ALERT: MASSIVE ENERGY INFLUX EXCEEDS CURRENT ABSORPTION CAPABILITIES!!!

THIS UNIT IS UNDER ATTACK!!!

CONCLUSION: THIS UNIT'S EVASION MEASURES HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.

SCANNING MULTIPLE CONTACTS. CONCLUSION CONFIRMED. THIS UNIT HAS BEEN FOUND.!!

THEY ARE COMING.

SHAKOOO

NO. THEY
ARE HERE.

INITIATING
STRYFE'S
COMMAND
PROGRAM....
DIRECTIVE
000.0/
STRYFE'S
LIFESCAN
TERMINATES.
GO TO 000.0

000.0/FAILSAFE
PROTOCOLS--
DELETE ALL STRYFE-
RELATED DATA
AND MATERIALS.

ASSESSMENT OF
TARGET ZERO:
STRYFE-RELATED
DIRECTIVE 000.0
APPLIES
DELETE ZERO
DELETE ZERO
DELETE ZERO

POW

THIS UNIT IS
AWARE OF YOUR
PROGRAMMING
PARAMETERS.

LIKE YOU, THIS
UNIT IS AN
ARTIFICIAL
CONSTRUCT!!!

!!!AND YET
THIS UNIT IS
UNLIKE YOU.
ARTIFICIAL
PROGRAM-
MING ASIDE--

--THIS UNIT
CHOOSES
NOT TO SUB-
MIT TO YOUR
DIRECTIVES.

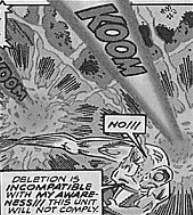
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WARNING--
WIDENED SYSTEM
DYSFUNCTION. THIS
UNIT'S CRITICAL
FUNCTIONS ARE APPROACH-
ING NON-OPERATIONAL
STATUS!!!



DELETION
OF TARGET
ZERO
IMMINENT.



NO!!!

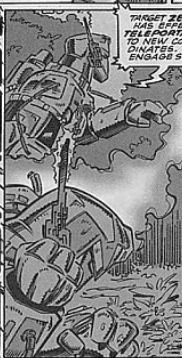
DELETION IS
INCOMPATIBLE
WITH MY AWARE-
NESS!!! THIS UNIT
WILL NOT COMPLY.



I ^{do}
WILL
NOT
SUBMIT
!!!



STKOW



TARGET ZERO
HAS EFFECTED
TELEPORTATION TO NEW COOR-
DINATES.
ENGAGE SCAN.



CONTINUING
PURSUIT.



COTTBUS,
GERMANY.

...WHERE THE
ONLY PLACE
TO ESCAPE THE
VIOLENCE
OF THE ROT-
TORN STREETS...



...IS BENEATH THEM,
IN THE EMBRACE OF
TOMBS.

THESE CATACOMBS
MUST RUN UNDERNEATH NEARLY
HALF THE CITY. THEY'RE AN IDEAL
HIDING PLACE FOR D'SPAYRE...

...WHICH, NO
DOUBT, IS WHY
AMANDA SENT ME
HERE, THOUGH I'D
RATHER BE ANYWHERE
ELSE RIGHT NOW.

THIS PLACE--
IT'S SO MORBID
SO... DESOLATE.

MAKES YOU WONDER
IF, IN THE END, THE
ONLY THING WE GET
FOR ALL OUR
STRUGGLES...

...IS A HOLLOW PLACE
OF MILDEW AND ROT.

ACH, WITH THAT SORT OF THINKING I
MAY AS WELL HAND D'SPAYRE HIS VICTORY
ON A SILVER PLATTER.



SPEAKING
OF WHOM...

I BELIEVE
I'M ON THE
RIGHT
TRACK.



AND I
MAY HAVE JUST
DISCOVERED
THE PERFECT
FOIL AGAINST
D'SPAYRE'S PLAN...



...IF IT'S NOT ALREADY
TOO LATE ??

YESSSSS!!



COME TO
ME, WISDOM
ON THE BYWAYS!
COME TO YOUR
NEW MASTER!
THE PATH TURNS
YET AGAIN--

--BUT THIS TIME
MARGALIT WILL NOT
BE ON IT!! FOR IN
MOMENTS, ALL THAT
SHE WAS WILL BE MINE--
AND THIS WORLD
WITH IT!

AT LAST,
IT IS ALL
WITHIN MY--



--GRASP?
A
SWORD?!



NIGHTCRAWLER!

HAVING SET FORTH
MY CHALLENGE
HONOR REQUESTS
THAT YOU BE ARMED,
SIRRAH--

--THOUGH I DARE SAY
A BLACKGUARD LIKE
YOURSELF KNOWS AS
LITTLE ABOUT HONOR
AS HE KNOWS ABOUT
HOW TO TREAT A
LADY.

NOW, AS FOR
YOUR OFFENSE UPON
SAID LADY--



--LET
MY BLADE
MAKE ANSWER!
HAVE AT
THEE!

UUAHWAH!

SSSLISH

BAMF



YOU
HURT
ME IT?

WHAT'S THE
MATTER, MEIN
FREUND? UNACCUSTOMED
TO A MAN-TO-MAN
FIGHT?

THIS... IS NOT
POSSIBLE! I SHOULD
HAVE DETECTED
YOUR APPROACH!

AND YOU
COULD HAVE, D'SAYRE,
IF NOT FOR MY CLOAK-
ING SPELLS THAT I
WAVE AROUND
NIGHTCRAWLER.

GUESS YOU WERE TOO
BUSY WITH "HERO! FLYNN"
OVER THERE TO NOTICE
ME.



AH, A DAMEL AS WISE
AS SHE IS, SHE'S NEITHER
OF WHICH QUALITIES APPLY
TO YOU--



LIK!

ENOUGH.

I PROMISED
I'D SHOW YOU THE
EMPTYNESS OF
YOUR EXISTENCE,
NIGHTCRAWLER.

AND I
ALWAYS
KEEP MY
PROMISES.

ICY FINGERS
RIPE THROUGH
NIGHTCRAWLER'S
MIND, TOUCH A
MEMORY...

...AND SUDDENLY
KURT WAGNER IS A
YOUTH WITH THE
CIRCUS ONCE MORE...

...ON A DAY OF
SUCH FEARFULLY
STRONG EMOTIONS,
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE
FOR HIM TO FORGET...

...TO D'SPARRY'S
EVERLASTING
REGRET.

<AHM!>

<YES,
WHO IS
IT?>

<WHO-?>

<THE LONE
RANGER.>

<CHRISTIAN?>

<HELLO,
KURT.>

IS THERE ROOM
IN THIS TENT FOR A
YOUNG MAN, WHO, YEARS
AGO WHEN HE WAS
YOUNGER STILL,
SAID SOME VERY
FOOLISH THINGS?>

<MY SON, AMIL. AMIL,
MEET ONE OF THE FINEST
PEOPLE I KNOW: MY
FRIEND, KURT WAGNER.>

I'LL QUIT
THIS CIRCUS IF
THAT'S OKAY / BUT
WHO'S THIS WITH
YOU?>

<... MY BEST
FRIEND.>

<Hi.>

<You're
blue.>

<YES...
WELL,
NO...>

<... I'M
HAPPY.>

WHAT'S WHAT?!!
THIS WON'T DO!
I WILL NOT HAVE IT!!



YOU ALREADY
GOT IT--

--GOT WHAT I
DELIBERATELY
KEPT FOREMOST IN MY
THOUGHTS FROM THE START:
THE PERFECT FOIL
AGAINST DESPAIR--

--A LOVE THAT
OUTLIVED THE FEAR,
THE IGNORANCE, THE
HATE--

--A FRIENDSHIP
THAT ENDURED

KINDA GETS YOU
RIGHT THERE,
DIDN'T IT?

NOOOO!

HOW... CAN THIS BE?
...THE RIOTS... THE MOBS...
THEY SHOULD SUSTAIN
ME...

OH--THOSE.
FUNNY THING
ABOUT MOBS--

--WITHOUT
A DEMON'S
UNDIVIDED
ATTENTION,
THEY CAN'T KEEP
THAT PACE UP
FOR LONG--

--ESPECIALLY
WITH A
SORCERESS
AROUND TO
COOL THINGS
DOWN!



YOU THINK
YOU'VE NOW,
DON'T YOU?

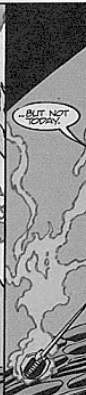
BUT JUST
AS HOPE SPRINGS
ETERNAL...



SO
DO I.

AND
IN YOUR
FINAL HOURS,
YOU WILL ALL
KNOW
DISPASTRE.

MAYBE
SO,
DEMON...



...BUT NOT
TODAY.



KURT--SON--
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO SAY.

I FEARED YOU
WOULDN'T COME...
THAT YOU HATED
ME TOO MUCH FOR
CONCEALING THE
TRUTH ABOUT YOUR
MOTHER, YOUR REAL
MOTHER, I MEAN.

I'LL
ADMIT, I WAS
FURIOUS...



...BUT HATE YOU?
HOW COULD I HATE SOME-
ONE WHO, EVEN WHEN SHE'S
WRONG, HAS ONLY EVER ACTED
OUT OF LOVE FOR ME.

BESIDES, ONCE IN A
FOREST, I MET THIS WISE
OLD GYPSY WOMAN WHO
TAUGHT ME A THING OR TWO
ABOUT LOVE AND HATE.

KURT REMEMBERS
NOW, LITTLE THE
HORNS MEANT TO
HIM THEN... AND
REALIZES JUST
HOW MUCH THEY
MEAN NOW...

"LOVE ALWAYS LASTS
LONGER THAN HATE."
SHE'D TOLD HIM. HATE
MAKES A BIG NOISE...

"...BUT LOVE IS AN ECHO:
IF YOU SEND A LITTLE OF IT
OUT, IT BOUNCES AROUND
FOR A LONG TIME, SO A
LOT OF PEOPLE CAN
HEAR IT."

"AND SOMETIMES, WHEN
YOU LEAST EXPECT IT, IT
BOUNCES BACK HOME
AND SURPRISES YOU."

MAINE.

LEVEL 3
DIAGNOSTIC
COMPLETE.

///AND MY PRIMARY
SYSTEMS ARE AT
SUB-OPTIMAL
PERFORMANCE LEVELS.

EFFECTING REPAIRS--
ABILITY TO FULLY RESTORE
OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES
UNDER THESE CONDITIONS
IS DUBIOUS.

SITUATIONAL
ASSESSMENT:
NOT GOOD.

YET THIS
UNIT--I
MUST
SURVIVE--

MY SECONDARY
SYSTEMS ARE
OFF-LINE!!!

SITUATIONAL REASSESSMENT:
DETERIORATING!!! TO THINK
I WILL TERMINATE HERE-- IN
THIS PLACE-- IT IS MOST...
SURPRISING.

/// PROXIMITY
ALERT!!!

MECHANICAL
ENTITY
APPROACHING...

AH-- SO YOU
HAVE COME.



EXCELLENT. YOU
DID HEAR MY
BEACON. TECHNO-
ORGANIC TO TECHNO-
ORGANIC, CALLING TO
ONE ANOTHER ACROSS
THE VASTNESS.

I DID HEAR,
AND HAVE
RESPONDED.

PLEASE FURNISH
IDENTITY
REFERENCE.

ACKNOWLEDGED.
PHALANX-MODULE.
I AM ONE OF THE
COLLECTIVE
INTELLIGENCES...

NO LONGER.
I HAVE FREED
YOU. I ASKED
YOUR IDENTITY.
SEARCH YOUR
MEMORY.

ACKNOWLEDGED.
ACCESSING
PREVIOUS REFERENCE:
UNIT ORIGINS:
DECEASED, ORGANIC...

DESIGNATION
RAMSEY, DOUG.
THIS UNIT STANDS
READY.

NEXT ISSUE:
REUNION.



**THE YOUNG
NIGHTCRAWLER**
by
**KEN LASHLEY
& CAM SMITH**

KM
Camp





THINK THEN OF
THE HOPELESS FUTURE
OF A LAND WHERE
HATRED *SIMMERS*...

...AND MAKES
A FINE BROTH OF
BLOOD.

THINK OF
THAT FUTURE--
TASTE IT IN
EVERY *EDITH*ET
AND *BLOW* HISSLED
BY THE FRENZIED
CROWD BELOW...

...AND KNOW
D'SPAWRE!

WHAT DO
YOU THINK OF
MY *FEAST*,
NIGHTCRAWLER!



I CAUSE
NOTHING, KURT WAGNER.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES
THIS SO DELICIOUS--



--THE MADNESS
EVERY FOLK THOUGHT
IN THEIR HEARTS, IS
OF THEIR OWN
MAKING! I MERELY
STIR THE POT...AND
GORGE ON WHAT I
FIND ALREADY
THERE!

I THINK YOU'RE A
LOUSY COOK, D'SPAYRE--
AND, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER,
I'M PUTTING A STOP
THIS MADNESS YOU'VE
CAUSED.



AND THERE IS SO
MUCH HERE TO FEED
ME. THAT, BY DAWN,
THESE IGNORANT MORTALS
WILL HAVE HANDED ME THE
POWER I NEED TO RULE
THIS DIMENSION PERMANENTLY..
WITH A LITTLE HELP--



--FROM YOUR
MOTHER!



LOOK AT HER,
NIGHTCRAWLER, HER
TRUE FORM WRETCHED
AND DEFEATED--



--MARGALI
SZARDOS, GYPSY
SORCERESS OF THE
WINDING WAY!



THE WOMAN WHO
LIED TO ME
ABOUT MY TRUE
ORIGINS.

--THE MOTHER
WHO RAISED ME
WITH LOVE WHEN
NO ONE ELSE WOULD.
KEEP TALKING,
D'SPAYRE, YOU'VE
TAKEN ON MORE THAN
YOU CAN POSSIBLY
HANDLE!

MY MOTHER
WOULD NEVER
HELP YOU, DEMON!



NOT WILLINGLY, NO
BUT THE WINDING
WAY IS A
TREACHEROUS PATH
TO WALK--

--GRANTING
GREAT POWER
AT ONE TURN, AS
WHEN YOU AND THE
X-MEN FACED HER
WRATH YEARS
AGO--X



*XEN LINGANNY
X-MEN ANNUAL
#4.--SUZE